

A B S T R A C T

5 The invention relates to a picture coding method for
transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a
high error rate, typically a channel with a bit rate less
than 100 kbit/s and an error rate greater than 10^{-6} , or
even 10^{-4} . The method uses motion estimation coding and
divides the picture into a plurality of segments made up
of macroblocks. According to the invention, at least for
10 an edge macroblock of a segment, a motion estimation
vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.
This is particularly advantageous for macroblocks
situated top right of the segment if scanning for motion
vector estimation is from left to right and top to
15 bottom. This solution avoids errors caused by estimating
motion vectors within segments and limits the propagation
of coding errors caused by splitting the picture into
segments.

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